

FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

5/29/2009

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STATE MUSEUM LOSES TREASURED LIVING ARTIFACT

At the end of June, the Alaska State Museum will lose one of its most treasured living artifacts. Not through theft nor through natural disaster, but through retirement.

Bruce Kato joined the Alaska State Museum in 1979 as an exhibits worker. He rose through the ranks and long ago became Chief Curator. We asked Bruce to comment on his career and legacy. Here is what he told us:

“I have enjoyed my career at the museum and it has been a pleasure working with all of you. It is with reassurance that the museum will continue its long history of professionalism and quality that I leave knowing that the museum is in the good hands of an extremely dedicated staff who will continue to carry on the important work of the museum. We have accomplished a lot together during my 30 years of service.”

Bruce will be sorely missed by the State Museum staff in both Juneau and Sitka, as well as his colleagues at the State Library and State Archives.

ARCHIVES RESCUE CORPS TRAINING DATES ARE SET

The Archives Rescue Corps training dates are set:

Juneau (location to be announced): July 14th: 1pm-5pm, July 15th 9am-4pm
Anchorage, Atwood Building (550 W 7th Ave): July 20th 1pm-5pm, July 21 9am-4pm
Fairbanks, Rasmuson Library (UAF), 3rd floor media classroom: July 22, 1pm-5pm, July 23, 9am-4pm

Training will focus primarily on photograph preservation with intern Jennifer McGlinchey as well as general archival practices with State Archivist Glenn Cook and ARC Project Coordinator Frances Field. The photographic preservation training will include identification of the type of negative or print and the best ways to preserve them based on photograph type. Jennifer is in her final stages of receiving her Masters in Paper and Photographic Conservation at Buffalo State College. Training will be free and open

to ARC participants, but at this time ARC will not be paying for travel or lodging for participants. To sign up, please visit:

http://www.archives.state.ak.us/arc/arc_training_signup.cfm

If you have any questions, please contact Frances Field at frances.field@alaska.gov or 907.465.1310.

EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUMS FLOOD REPORT

This week we received the report below from Jean Turner of the Eagle Historical Society & Museums:

The days of May 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 seem like a distant dream for people in Eagle now. Yet our surroundings, and the rebuilding of lives and structures just begun, are a constant reminder that the events of those days have changed our lives forever.

But Eagle people are Alaskans -- and we all know Alaskans don't give up.

One of the museum buildings in the Eagle Historic District was impacted by the flood and ice devastation -- the Customs House on the waterfront. Of all of EHSM's buildings, it is probably the most beloved in the hearts of Eagle residents and a favorite of visitors as well. After abandoning our homes, we waited that first evening, nervously watching the water rise and recede. Most of us were already exhausted from moving goods and vehicles to high ground, and those of us who sensed we no longer had a home were in a state of numbness and shock. At that moment, someone said, "We've got to get that stuff out of the Customs House!" Out of nowhere, a team of about 20 gathered with pickup trucks. A window was broken and planks found for access, and suddenly we were a bucket-line rescue team.

When the water level began rising suddenly, it was time to leave, as it was apparent the ice could strike the building at any moment. By then, the most endangered artifacts were in a safe place. Later, when the water receded, a second group went back and retrieved the rest. Thanks to Scott Carrlee's technical help, and the willingness of many others to stand ready, we were able to triage everything and care for objects needing attention. Virtually everything will be saved, although a few items will need special treatment in the future.

It is now the Customs House structure that needs attention. Emergency funding is being sought, an architect is coming to assess the damages and make recommendations, and we are hopeful the building can be saved. Getting those rescued objects back into their real home would be the fairytale ending to this heart-wrenching story.

We have learned that the Alaska historical community is a rare breed of caring folks, always willing to help. All of Eagle sends sincere thanks for the many words of concern, hope and encouragement received in the recent weeks.

JUNEAU PUBLIC LIBRARY LOANS VIDEO GAMES

In April, the Juneau Public Libraries began loaning a set of video games whose purchase was made possible by a gift from their friends of the library. Being good librarians, they cataloged their 72 games which you can see listed at

<http://www.ccl.lib.ak.us/uhtbin/cgisirsi.exe/x/0/0/5?searchdata7=^B37{LIST}>. A quick glance at the first catalog screen on May 29, 2009 shows that seven out of the first 20 listed are currently checked out. JPL's collection has titles for the PS3, Wii and Xbox 360. For more about the collection, please visit the JPL blog at <http://juneaubookblog.wordpress.com/2009/04/27/video-games-arrive-at-jpl/>.

RAVEN ABOUT WEB 2.0

Raven About Web 2.0 is a self-paced course from UAA (LS 591.5D1) running from June 1 – August 1. It is a one credit graduate level course with a registration fee of \$69.00. Textbook is available “free” for checkout from the Alaska State Library.

Questions about course content contact:
Ann Morgester, Curriculum Coordinator, Libraries
Anchorage School District
907-742-4461
Morgester_Ann@asdk12.org

Questions about borrowing the textbook from the State Library contact:
Jacque E. Peterson, School Library Coordinator, Alaska State Library
(907) 269-6571 / 1-800-776-6566 in-state
Jacque.peterson@alaska.gov

Instructions about registering for UAA professional development courses can be found at <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/coe/pace/>.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FROM SPACE

If you know a science educator casting about for classroom activities or lesson plan ideas, point them to the Kepler Mission education page at <http://kepler.nasa.gov/ed/>. The Kepler Mission is currently in an earth trailing orbit around the sun and is monitoring 100,000 nearby stars for Earth sized planets. Resources available from the education page include teacher workshops, models and simulations, and activities tailored by grade.

TRUMAN 125: A LIFE IN PHOTOGRAPHS

The Harry S. Truman Library & Museum, one of twelve Presidential Libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration, presents an online exhibit in honor of what would have been President Truman's 125th birthday. The exhibit may be viewed at <http://www.trumanlibrary.org/Truman125/125open.html>.

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